

News Release

Release #01-33 Nancy J. Sticht May 11, 2001

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers schedules public hearing for Barnes permit

Sandusky, Ohio – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District, has issued a public notice and scheduled a public hearing concerning the application by Robert Barnes, president of Barnes Nursery, Inc. for an after-the-fact Department of Army permit for work adjacent to Sheldon Marsh Nature Preserve.

The public notice period is open from May 11 through June 11, 2001, during which written comments may be submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1776 Niagara Street, Buffalo, New York 14207-3199, to the attention of project manager Michael G. Montone.

Written comments may also be provided by e-mail to: michael.g.montone@usace.army.mil.

The public hearing will be held on Tuesday, June 12 at 7 p.m. in the High School Auditorium, Perkins Public Schools, 3714 South Campbell Street, Sandusky, Ohio 44870. The purpose of the hearing is to obtain information and data relevant to the permit application. All statements, both oral and written, will become part of the administrative record on this proposal. Written statements will be accepted for insertion into the official record for a period of ten days following the hearing.

The administrative record, containing the permit application, supporting documentation, project drawings and details, comment letters and correspondence will be available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Huron Public Library, 333 Williams Street, Huron, Ohio 44839. Documentation may also be reviewed on the Buffalo District website, located at http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/orgs/reg/update.htm.

Barnes has applied for an after-the-fact permit to maintain and modify the project he constructed during July 2000. He is seeking authorization to dredge and discharge approximately 14,100 cubic yards of material, affecting approximately two acres of mudflats in association with a project constructed in waters of the United States. The stated project purpose includes the restoration of the former hydrologic circulation to a portion of East Sandusky Bay, and provide irrigation water for operation of Barnes' nursery.

Following the public hearing, the Buffalo District Commander will review the administrative file and hearing transcript and decide whether to issue or deny a permit for the proposed project.